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IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the following paragraphs as indicated:

The paragraph beginning at page 9, line 6:

Figure 3 schematically shows the principle realized in a preferred embodiment. As mentioned, same parts still have the same reference signs. Before the entrance gap 16 and after the exit gap 20, rinsing chambers 42 or 44 are located. From these rinsing chambers ~~42, 44~~ 42 and 44 an air mixture 46 is drawn off which contains solvent vapor exiting from the gap 16 or 20. The drawn-off mixture 46 is supplied to a condenser 48 that condenses solvent and separates it as condensate 50. The condenser 48 is equipped with a cooling unit that dries the mixture 46, which is re-supplied to the rinsing chambers ~~42, 44~~ 42 and 44 in the form of an air circuit with the aid of a fan 52. The supply of the dried air is carried out such that the direction of flow in the respective rinsing chamber ~~42, 44~~ 42 and 44 is directed toward the gap 16 or 20. In this way, a dynamic vapor barrier without mechanical contact is created, which barrier prevents an exit of solvent vapor from the entire device. The vapor barrier is indicated by arrows ~~P3, P4~~ P3 and P4.

The paragraph beginning at page 10, line 13:

Located following the fixing chamber 18 in which a high solvent concentration is present are the rinsing chambers 42 and 44, in which the solvent vapor exiting from the fixing chamber is drawn off as an air mixture 46 and is re-supplied later on as dried air 54. The solvent vapor exiting from the fixing chamber 18 (indicated by the arrows P5 and P6) is caught in the rinsing chambers 42 and 44 by the dried air streams 54 as a directed stream P7 or P8. These air streams ~~P7, P8~~ P7 and P8 are directed toward the middle of the respective rinsing chamber ~~42, 44~~ 42 and 44 and toward the carrier web 10. The other partial stream of the dried air 54 runs in the direction of the air streams ~~P9, P10~~ P9 and P10 and is likewise directed toward the middle of the rinsing chambers ~~42, 44~~ 42 and 44 and blows at the surface of the carrier web 10. In the middle of the rinsing chamber ~~42, 44~~ 42 and 44 a middle stream forms by the opposite streams ~~P7, P9~~ P7 and P9 and ~~P8, P10~~ P8 and P10 that is drawn off as an air mixture 46. The movement of the air in the circuit of drawn-off air 46 and re-supplied air 54 is generated by a fan 70.

The paragraph beginning at page 11, line 16:

The condenser exhaust air or dried air 54 is not blown into the surrounding area but is cleverly supplied to the rinsing chambers ~~42, 44~~ 42 and 44 via nozzles ~~72, 74~~ 72 and 74 in the rinsing chamber 42 and nozzles ~~76, 78~~ 76 and 78 in the rinsing chamber 44. The nozzles 72, 74 and ~~76, 78~~ 76 and 78 are arranged symmetrically to one another and are directed toward the center of the respective rinsing chamber ~~42, 44~~ 42 and 44. Thus, rinsing streams ~~P7, P9~~ P7 and P9 and P8, P10 result which are directed symmetrically to the center of the rinsing chambers ~~42, 44~~ 42 and 44. By way of this stream guidance it is avoided that solvent vapor is blown out of the rinsing chambers ~~42, 44~~ 42 and 44 into the surrounding area and ambient air is dragged in from the outside into the fixing chamber 18. Thus, there results an outward neutrality. A dilution of the solvent concentration in the fixing chamber 18 is thus avoided, which might deteriorate the fixing quality. The rinsing streams ~~P7, P9~~ P7 and P9 and ~~P8, P10~~ P8 and P10 strike the surface of the carrier web 10 in the rinsing chambers 42 or 44 preferably under an angle of about 30 to 60° as a turbulent flow.

The paragraph beginning at page 12, line 5:

The air streams circulating through the rinsing chambers ~~42, 44~~ 42 and 44 and the condenser 48 form a rinsing air circuit. In operation, the saturation concentration for the solvent at prevailing ambient pressure and the prevailing condenser temperature substantially arises in the rinsing air circuit. Solvent vapor exiting from the fixing chamber 18 then leads to an exceeding of the saturation concentration, and by means of the condenser 48 excessive solvent is condensed and resupplied to the solvent circuit.

The paragraph beginning at page 12, line 12:

A solvent drag-out cannot be fully avoided. Accordingly, the filling level of solvent 62 in the buffer container 60 constantly decreases. This solvent loss is compensated for from a supply container 80 with the aid of a pump 82. For controlling the filling level in the buffer container 60, a filling level sensor 84 can be used which deactivates the pump 82 when a desired level is reached. Instead of a level-controlled pump, a continuously running pump having an overflow 86 can also be used. The pump capacity of this pump then has to correspond to at least the maximum consumption. In order to compensate for changes in volume in the condenser 48, in the buffer container 60 and in the supply container 80 ventings ~~88, 90~~ 88 and 90 are provided.

The paragraph beginning at page 13, line 16:

Figure 6 shows details of the rear-rinsing chamber 44. The stream P8 mixes with the highly concentrated solvent vapor stream P6 exiting from the fixing chamber 18. In particular, a laminar boundary layer 92 entrained by the surface of the carrier material 10 and highly enriched with solvent vapor is dissolved. The air streams ~~P8, P10~~ P8 and P10 dry the surface of the carrier web 10 and thus the toner images. In addition to the dynamic sealing by rinsing and drying, in the embodiment according to Figure 6 and Figure 4 the exit of solvent vapor from the exit side of the rinsing chamber 44 is prevented by a sealing roller 94 in connection with a sealing lip 96 adjacent to the sealing roller 44. The contacting of the carrier web 10, for example a paper web, by the sealing roller 94 is possible at this location since, due to the charging with dried air in the rinsing chamber 44, the toner softened during the fixing in the fixing chamber 18 is already partly hardened and on the other hand no dew collects on the sealing roller 94 due to the low solvent concentration in the rinsing air. The sealing roller 94 comprises a toner-repellent material, for example Teflon or PFA material, or should be coated with such a material in order to avoid an adhering of toner. The toner-repellent property of the roller can also be created or improved by the application of silicone oil.

The paragraph beginning at page 14, line 9:

The circumferential speed of the sealing roller 94 has to correspond to the transport speed of the carrier web 10 so that the toner is not smeared due to slip. For this purpose, the sealing roller 94 can either be entrained by contact with the carrier web 10 or can be driven with the aid of a controlled motor. The sealing roller 94 acts as a support in a stabilizing manner for the carrier web 10. A fluttering of the carrier web is reduced so that the gaps in the rinsing chambers ~~42, 44~~ 42 and 44 and in the fixing chamber 18 can be set narrower and even less solvent vapor can escape from the fixing chamber 18 into the rinsing chambers ~~42, 44~~ 42 and 44 and from them.

The paragraph beginning at page 16, line 14:

In Figures 4 and 9, the condenser 48 is arranged outside the rinsing chambers ~~42, 44~~ 42 and 44. However, an arrangement as in Figure 10 can likewise be chosen in which a condenser 48 is enclosed in the respective rinsing chamber ~~42, 44~~ 42 and 44. In this alternative the external air shafts and air ducts are omitted. In the rinsing air circuit an explosive air solvent vapor atmosphere can be created depending on the solvent used as well as on the condenser temperature. By omitting the airshafts in the embodiment according to Figure 10, the explosive volume is reduced.

The paragraph beginning at page 16, line 21:

The by-pass principle can also be employed in the case of a condenser integrated in the rinsing chamber. Such an arrangement is illustrated in Figure 12. Two roller fans 112 produce air streams ~~114, 116~~ 114 and 116 at distribution elements 118. The air streams 116 turbulently blow at the surface of the carrier web 10. The air streams 114 reach cooled tubes 120 which form the condenser 48. The stream enriched with solvent is drawn off in the center and dried at the cooling tubes 120. The dripping condensate is collected in a collecting main 122 and drained off. The bypass stream 114 is directly conducted to the cooling tubes 120 without contact with the carrier web. By the continuous mixing of the streams ~~114, 116~~ 114 and 116 there results, statistically, a multiple secondary drying of the rinsing stream, as a result of which the separation efficiency is improved. For a temperature-regulation of the rinsing area in the stand-by mode, flaps 124 and 126 can be provided which, when actuated, prevent a blowing at the carrier web 10 in a closed condition. It is pointed out that such a stream guidance with corresponding flaps 124, 126 can also be employed in the other illustrated embodiments.

The paragraph beginning at page 17, line 12:

Figure 11 shows an embodiment in which the units for fixing and rinsing are arranged above the carrier web 10. In this case, care has to be taken with regard to the rinsing chambers ~~42, 44~~ 42 and 44 and the fixing chamber 18 that the solvent vapor does not condense on cold housing walls and drops down onto the carrier web 10. It is convenient that in sections, in which solvent might drop down onto the carrier web 10, such as the sections 130, the temperature of respective wall sections is sufficiently high, preferably above the dew point of the mixture in order to avoid a condensation. Preferably, these housing sections should be actively heated. A condensation of solvent vapor should also be avoided in further sections, for example in the areas 132, so that no solvent can collect thereat. There, too, the housing walls and elements are to be heated actively or a good condensate run-off has to be provided. The housing sections mentioned, in particular in the rinsing chambers ~~42, 44~~ 42 and 44 can either be heated actively with suitable heating elements or passively by means of contact with warm housing walls of the fixing chamber 18 or by pre-heating the rinsing air.

The paragraph beginning at page 18, line 3:

As illustrated in Figures 4, 9, 10 and 12, the fixing chamber 18 and the rinsing chambers ~~42, 44~~ 42 and 44 are preferably located below the carrier web 10 so that no solvent drops can reach the upper surface thereof. Regarding the energy consumption, this has two advantages. On the one hand, the housing walls of the rinsing chambers ~~42, 44~~ 42 and 44 then do not have to be heated. The energy for heating can thus be saved. On the other hand, it is avoided that energy is transferred from the heated housing walls to the passing rinsing stream, which would result in a heating of the rinsing stream. This energy would then have to be additionally taken from the condenser 48. By avoiding heating at heated housing walls, the condenser 48 and the associated cooler can be designed smaller with respect to capacity and electric power can be saved. A particularly advantageous embodiment comprises the integration of an internal rinsing circuit, i.e. the integration of the condensers 48 into the rinsing chambers ~~42, 44~~ 42 and 44 and an arrangement of the fixing chamber 18 and the rinsing chambers ~~42, 44~~ 42 and 44 below the carrier web 10. Since the heating of the rinsing streams is avoided, the internal condensers can have a smaller structural size and thus can be integrated more easily.

The paragraph beginning at page 19, line 5:

As can be seen with reference to the description and the specific embodiments, a device is provided which, despite the present openings toward the outside, results in a strong reduction of the solvent drag-out from a fixing chamber 18 without damaging the print image on the carrier web. In the device described, the carrier web 10 is not contacted in the following rinsing chamber 44, or only after drying. Thus, the entire fixing process can be effected without contact. In the rinsing chambers ~~42, 44~~ 42 and 44, turbulent flow conditions are created at the surface of the carrier web 10, as a result of which a laminar boundary layer entrained by the carrier web 10 at the exit of the fixing chamber 18 and having a high solvent concentration is dissolved. In the following rinsing chamber 44, this effects a drying of both the solvent vapor exiting the fixing chamber 18 as well as the carrier web 10 and the print image. In the rinsing chambers 42 and 44 flow conditions are created such that a drag-in of ambient air into the rinsing chamber or fixing chamber can be avoided and thus no volume exchange between the surrounding area and the rinsing chamber and the fixing chamber takes place. In the following rinsing chamber 44, the process drying and sealing takes place in the correct order, namely such that by the previous drying, no dew collects on the following sealing elements. Thus, a toner deposit at the contacting sealings is avoided; moreover, it is avoided that liquid condensate reaches the carrier web.